

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 /012 W

-----121015Z 049198 /11

R 120645Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3474

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1338

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: VISIT OF BURMESE NARCOTICS OFFICERS

REF: STATE 103872

1. COL. MYO AUNG IS STILL IN CHINA (NOW EXPECTED TO RETURN MAY 13 OR 14) AND U SHWE THAN IS UP COUNTRY. WE HOPE TO SEE THEM ABOUT ITINERARY NEXT WEEK. IN MEANTIME, MAJOR TIN MAUNG HAS COMMENTED THAT DRAFT ITINERARY LOOKS GOOD, INCLUDING TIME FRAME. HOWEVER, HE ALSO STATES THAT HE CANNOT SPEAK FOR SHWE THAN, WHO MIGHT HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL INTERESTS.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS AMPLIFICATION ON FOLLOWING:

A. JUNE 10 VISIT WITH USDA (EMBASSY BELIEVES DISCUSSION OF CROP SUBSTITUTION WOULD BE USEFUL. AS GUB HAS DECIDED NOT TO USE HERBICIDES WE THINK THAT EXPOSURE TO MEXICAN EFFORTS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT ON THAT SCORE.)

B. JUNE 15-16 VISIT TO FORT RUCKER. (WE ASSUME THIS WILL AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTERS AND LIGHT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT).

C. WE ASSUME THAT GIBSON AND HALL WILL ACCOMPANY ON JUNE 28 VISIT TO VARIOUS TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT COMPANIES. THAT, PLUS FAREWELL BRUNCH HOSTED BY MS. FALCO, SHOULD PRO-  
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VIDE OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN GROUP'S REACTION TO VISIT, BUT PARTICULARLY TO TYPES OF AIRCRAFT OBSERVED.

3. WE AGREE THAT DISBURSEMENT OF PER DIEM BEFORE DEPARTURE IS SIMPLEST AND BELIEVE IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO BURMESE. WE HAVE USED THIS METHOD IN OTHER CASES.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE PROBABLE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY  
FOLLOW:

A. COL. MYO AUNG, DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE.  
HE WAS BORN MARCH 16, 1930 AT PYU IN CENTRAL BURMA. A  
STUDENT IN THE JAPANESE ERA, HE PARTICIPATED IN SOME OF THE  
NATIONALIST AGITATION WHICH PRECEDED BURMA'S INDEPENDENCE IN  
1948. HE ATTENDED RANGOON UNIVERSITY AND IN 1953 JOINED THE  
ARMY, BECOMING A SECOND LIEUTENANT ON COMPLETION OF OFFICER'S  
TRAINING SCHOOL IN JULY 1954. HE SPENT THE NEXT YEARS OF HIS  
CAREER WITH THE 18TH REGIMENT IN THE SOUTHERN SHAN STATE, AND  
THEN SERVED IN CENTRAL BURMA. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NE WIN'S  
SEIZURE OF POWER IN 1962, COL. MYO AUNG WAS ASSIGNED TO THE  
PERSONNEL SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AS GENERAL STAFF  
OFFICER (III). LATER THE SAME YEAR, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE  
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT UNIT. HE REMAINED IN THIS LINE  
OF WORK UNTIL 1971, WHEN HE WAS NAMED COMMANDER OF THE 87TH  
BURMA REGIMENT; HE WAS THEN MADE GSO(I) OF THE NORTHEAST  
COMMAND FROM 1974 TO 1975. HE SERVED AS DEPUTY COMMANDER  
OF THE 77TH DIVISION FROM APRIL 1975 TO JUNE 1976, WHEN  
HE WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION. HE BECAME A  
MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST  
PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP), BURMA'S SOLE LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY,  
IN MARCH 1977. HE IS MARRIED TO SAW KHIN HTOO AND HAS  
THREE CHILDREN. HE IS A BUDDHIST. COL. MYO AUNG'S ABILITY  
TO BOTH COMPREHEND AND SPEAK ENGLISH IS LIMITED, ALTHOUGH  
CONVERSATION ON EVERYDAY TOPICS PRESENTS LITTLE DIFFICULTY;  
USE OF AN INTERPRETER IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED FOR DISCUS-  
SIONS OF COMPLEX SUBJECTS. COL. MYO AUNG IS YOUNG FOR THE  
SENIOR POSITION HE HOLDS, AND MAY RANK BELOW U SHWE THAN  
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(A RETIRED COLONEL) WITHIN THE BURMA ARMY.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 /012 W

-----121316Z 056137 /42

R 120745Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3475

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 1338

STADIS////////////////////////////////

B. U SHWE THAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE. A RETIRED ARMY COLONEL AND SANDHURST GRADUATE. IN 1963, SHWE THAN, THEN A MAJOR, COMPLETED INSTRUCTOR'S COURSE AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE, RANGOON. HE WAS ASSIGNED TO COMMAND THE 52ND BURMA REGIMENT AT KHAMTI IN THE CHIN STATE, AND WAS CONCURRENTLY THE HEES OF THE LOCAL CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE BODY, THE SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL. HE SERVED IN THE SHAN STATE AND WAS ALSO AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE WAS LATER APPOINTED DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE NORTHERN COMMAND. ON RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMY, HE WAS APPOINTED TO A POSITION IN THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE SOON BECOMING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE, AND WAS PROMOTED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION, DIRECTOR GENERAL, IN NOVEMBER 1975. HE TRAVELED ABROAD TO ARGENTINA, WHERE HE ATTENDED A POLICE CHIEFS' CONFERENCE. A WORKAHOLIC, HE HAS REPORTEDLY TAKEN TWO WEEKS LEAVE IN THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS. U SHWE THAN IS MARRIED TO DAW KHIN LAW MYINT. HE IS A BUDDHIST. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND IS REPORTEDLY WELL READ AND WELL INFORMED.

C. COL. KO GYI, COLONEL AIR STAFF. BORN JANUARY 8, 1927, HE WAS A STUDENT DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF BURMA AND A STUDENT AT RANGOON UNIVERSITY AFTER THE WAR. HE JOINED THE BURMA AIR FORCE IN 1949 AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND RECEIVED FIGHTER PILOT AND NAVIGATION TRAINING IN ENGLAND. HE RETURNED TO BURMA AND FOUGHT AGAINST THE KARENS, THE CHINESE NATIONALIST FORCES AND OTHERS. HE WAS THEN SENT TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE HE GRADUATED FROM THE AIR COMMAND STAFF COLLEGE, AND LATER VISITED YUGOSLAVIA. HE WAS THEN MADE COMMANDER OF THE ADVANCE FIGHTER GROUP AND PILOT TRAINING SCHOOL, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED COMMANDER OF THE 501 AIR BASE. FOLLOWING PRESIDENT NE WIN'S SEIZURE OF POWER IN 1962, HE COMMANDED SEVERAL OTHER AIR BASES AND TRAINING SCHOLLS. HE BECAME INVOLVED IN POLITICS, BOTH AS A MEMBER OF THE BSPP AND AS A MEMBER OF THE MANDALAY DIVISION PEOPLE'S COUNCIL. HE WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION COLONEL AIR STAFF IN 1974, FOLLOWING WHICH HE ALSO BECAME A MEMBER OF THE BSPP ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND A MEMBER OF THE LANZIN YOUGH ORGANIZING CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE WAS PROMOTED TO COLONEL IN JUNE 1975. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE BSPP CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN MARCH 1977. COL. KO GYI IS A

BUDDHIST; HE IS MARRIED TO DAW TIN TIN NYO; HE SPEAKS EXCEL-  
LENT ENGLISH.

D. MAJOR TIN MAUNG, FOREIGN LIASION OFFICER, DEFENSE  
SERVICES INTELLIGENCE. BORN AUGUST 30, 1935 IN RANGOON,  
MAJOR TIN MAUNG JOINED THE BURMA AIR FORCE IN THE EARLY  
1950'S; HE RECEIVED RADAR TRAINING IN THE UK FROM 1953 TO  
1956. HE ALSO RECEIVED FLIGHT TRAINING IN BURMA (1959-60)  
AND SUBSEQUENTLY SERVED AS BOTH A FIGHTER AND HELICOPTER  
PILOT. HE WAS APPOINTED COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE  
UNITS ONE AND TWO IN MARCH 1974 AND TO HIS PRESENT POSITION  
IN 1976. HE ACCOMPANED THE LAST GUB NARCOTICS MISSION ON  
ITS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1975. HE IS MARRIED TO  
DAW KHIN SINT AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE IS A BUDDHIST. HE  
SPEAKS ENGLISH AND PLAYS TENNIS.  
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## Message Attributes

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